

shouted, "The soldier will not stand for abuses any longer. They are in power now!"

Tseretelli replied firmly. "Yes, you, the armed forces of our country, have power so long as you serve your country. But if you try to put your own desires above the will of the people, you will become a handful of rebels. Therefore do not talk about your power when you are presenting your complaints to the civil authorities." Tseretelli's words greatly impressed the soldiers, and they assured him of their loyalty. "There are always some complaints in the barracks," they said, "but to the soldiers the Citizens' Committee is like God in Heaven."

The same day a dozen officers came to the Committee to report the enlisted men's growing distrust of the commanders. They recommended that a military parade be held on Cathedral Plaza. The district commander approved the plan and the parade was called for March 19. The day was sunny and frosty. The troops were received by the district commander surrounded by his staff, all on horseback. The Committee's presiding board stood some ten steps away. The soldiers stood at attention while Tseretelli harangued them.

"It has been reported to the Citizens' Committee that the soldiers of the Irkutsk garrison do not trust their officers. The army cannot cast if enlisted men distrust their superiors and officers distrust their men. In the future only officers who enjoy the confidence of the revolutionary government will serve in the army. The district commander will continue in command as long as we trust him. But as long as he holds his post, we demand that you, the soldiers, execute all his orders."

The soldiers answered with the customary "Hurrah!" Then the regiments passed in ceremonial review before the commander. Custom required that the colonel commanding each regiment present his outfit to the reviewing general and join the latter's staff, while the regiment proceeded to the barracks under the command of a subordinate officer. The colonel who headed the first regiment stopped briefly in front of the district commander, saluted him with his sabre, then turned around, saluted the presiding board of the Citizens' Committee, and resolutely strode over to us. Other colonels followed his example. By the end of the review we were surrounded by officers. The district commander seemed to have been forgotten.

That evening a large delegation of officers came to our quarters and explained that, so far as the officers were concerned, the demonstration was illegitimate. The garrison distrusted the district commander, a "political" general. The delegation begged the Committee to remove him. He was replaced by a colonel, a hero of the Russo-Japanese War who had been decorated for his valor and was widely known to the garrison commander in years of service. The next day the